

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

SPECIAL ORDER NO. 20

July 26, 2001

**SUBJECT: ORNAMENTATION STANDARDS FOR SWORN DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES - REVISED.**

**PURPOSE:** Professionalism is the foundation and hallmark of the Los Angeles Police Department, and it is the major contributor to our worldwide reputation for excellence. Certain incidents have caused the Department to re-evaluate the personal appearance standards of sworn employees while on duty. The Department is taking proactive measures to ensure that all sworn Department employees adhere to personal appearance standards.

This Order restates the Department's existing ornamentation standards and strengthens some of those standards to ensure that sworn Department employees present a professional appearance. It places accountability for compliance with those standards not only upon each sworn employee, but also upon his/her supervisors and commanding officers.

**PROCEDURE:**

**I. COMMANDING OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITY.** Primary responsibility for complying with Department personal appearance standards rests with each sworn Department employee. However, each commanding officer is also responsible for ensuring that sworn employees within his/her command comply with these standards. Non-compliance with the Department's personal appearance standards is misconduct. Commanding officers shall ensure that appropriate action is taken when sworn officers fail to comply with the standards.

**II. ORNAMENTATION.**

**A. Sworn Uniformed Employees.** Sworn uniformed employees may wear one conservative ring on each hand (engagement and wedding ring when worn on the same finger count as one ring), a conservative wristwatch, a religious ornament worn underneath the uniform, a Police or Military "Killed In The Line Of Duty" remembrance bracelet and a medical alert necklace worn underneath the uniform or worn as a bracelet. Sworn uniformed employees **shall not** wear any other type of

visible body ornamentation including, but not limited to, earrings, nose studs, nose or eyebrow rings, tongue studs or rings, lip studs or rings, or non-medical alert necklaces and/or bracelets.

**Note:** Sworn employees who are authorized to wear the uniform while working off duty shall be held to the same standards as those working on duty.

**B. Non-Uniformed Sworn Employees.**

1. **Sworn Female Employees.** Sworn female employees may wear a single matched pair of earrings, one earring on each earlobe. The earrings shall be conservative, professional, and businesslike in appearance. Sworn female employees may wear one conservative ring on each hand (engagement and wedding ring when worn on the same finger count as one ring), a conservative wristwatch, a conservative necklace and bracelet, a religious ornament, a Police or Military "Killed In The Line Of Duty" remembrance bracelet and a medical alert necklace and/or bracelet. Sworn female employees **shall not** wear any other type of visible body ornamentation such as, but not limited to, multiple earrings in each ear, nose studs, nose or eyebrow rings, tongue studs or rings, or lip studs or rings.
2. **Sworn Male Employees.** Sworn male employees may wear one conservative ring on each hand, a conservative wristwatch, a conservative necklace and bracelet, a religious ornament, a Police or Military "Killed In The Line Of Duty" remembrance bracelet and a medical alert necklace and/or bracelet. Sworn male employees **shall not** wear any other type of visible body ornamentation such as, but not limited to, earrings, nose studs, nose or eyebrow rings, tongue studs or rings, or lip studs or rings.

**III. SUNGLASSES.**

**Sworn Uniformed Employees.** Prescription and non-prescription sunglasses worn by sworn employees shall be conservative in style and professional in appearance. Plastic or composite frames shall be a dark color and free of ornamentation. The temple width shall be no wider than one-half inch and in no case obstruct the peripheral vision. Wire frames are acceptable in either black, gold,

or silver color. The lenses shall be dark shades of gray, green, or brown. Gradient (light sensitive) lenses are acceptable; however, the lenses must return to a neutral color when not in sunlight. Designer lenses of colors such as pink, blue, and yellow are not acceptable. Silver-coated or reflective lenses are not acceptable. Sunglasses may not be worn at night, indoors, or in darkened areas. Sworn employees may utilize a plain black corded leash on their sunglasses.

**Note:** This section does not apply to officers in undercover assignments or to officers wearing shooting glasses while on a shooting range.

**AMENDMENTS:** This Order amends Section 3/605.70 and adds Section 3/605.75 to the Department Manual.

**AUDIT RESPONSIBILITY:** Bureau commanding officers or equivalents shall monitor compliance with this directive in accordance with Department Manual Section 0/080.30.

**BERNARD C. PARKS**  
**Chief of Police**

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